

Speech/Language Development Milestones

Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs
Newborn Hearing Screening Program
1-877-757-HEAR

The foundation for speech and language is set by a child's first birthday. Early detection of hearing loss is vital for a child's development. If a hearing loss is detected by the age of six months, most language skills can develop normally. The list that follows outlines signs of basic speech development. A licensed audiologist or speech therapist can answer any questions a parent or guardian has regarding the language development of his or her child.

A child is never too young to have an accurate hearing test. If you have concerns about your child's hearing, or want to schedule a hearing test, contact your physician and/or the Newborn Hearing Screening Program at the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs.

0-3 MONTHS

- coos and gurgles
- begins blowing bubbles
- moves eyes toward sound
- fixes gaze on object such as a bottle
- raises head when placed on stomach
- quiets when picked up
- excites as caregiver approaches

3-6 MONTHS

- begins to babble
- vocalizes pleasure and displeasure
- coos and laughs
- smiles at seeing a face
- laughs when playing with objects
- raises head and chest while on stomach
- watches hands
- rolls over

6-9 MONTHS

- uses sounds "m, n, t, d, b, p"
- imitates intonation patterns of voice
- babbling such as "bababa"
- looks at family members when named
- responds to own name
- waves "bye"

9-12 MONTHS

- vocalizes during play
- uses jargon or "jabbering" with varied intonation
- first true word to carry meaning occurs around 12 months
- will give an object upon request
- stacks rings on pegs
- imitates scribbling
- drops objects to watch them fall

12-18 MONTHS

- using single words, vocabulary is growing weekly, reaching about 30 words including nouns and verbs
- words are primarily understood by family members
- learning to show possession, saying "I, me, mine"
- requests attention using words